

Message Text

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60

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00

LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 AGR-05 SS-15 NSC-05 /075 W

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R 251515Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6553

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L VALLETTA 1382

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MT, FR

SUBJECT: MINTOFF TO SEE GISCARD DECEMBER 8

REF: EC BRUSSELS 10111

1. FRENCH AMBASSADOR PIERRE BOYER HAS INFORMED ME THAT PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING HAS AGREED TO RECEIVE MINTOFF IN PARIS ON DECEMBER 8. MINTOFF HAS BEEN PRESSING FOR SUCH A MEETING FOR SEVERAL WEEKS, PRIMARILY IN THE HOPE OF REVERSING THE FRENCH OPPOSITION TO INCREASING EEC ASSISTANCE TO MALTA FROM 21 MILLION U.A. TO 26 MILLION U.A. (PARA 5 REFTEL).

2. MINTOFF HAD TRIED TO SEE GISCARD IN MID-NOVEMBER, BEFORE THE EEC SUMMIT IN ROME ON DECEMBER 1 AND 2 AT WHICH THE FINAL DECISION ON ASSISTANCE TO MALTA MAY BE TAKEN, BUT PARIS SAID NO DATES IN NOVEMBER WOULD BE "CONVENIENT."

3. COMMENT: BOYER IS SURPRISED THAT MINTOFF ACCEPTED THE DECEMBER 8 DATE BECAUSE OF THE LIKELIHOOD THAT

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THE EEC DECISION WILL ALREADY HAVE BEEN TAKEN IN

ROME. EVEN IF THIS IS THE CASE, HOWEVER, MINTOFF
CAN CERTAINLY TURN THE GISCARD MEETING TO GOOD DOMESTIC
ADVANTAGE, PARTICULARLY SINCE IT WILL COME ONLY A FEW
DAYS BEFORE DECEMBER 13, THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF
MALTA'S BECOMING A REPUBLIC. SMITH

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